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# **News Release**

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## **St. Paul man sentenced for cashing in Social Security checks intended for his dead mother**

A 60-year-old, St. Paul man was sentenced Feb. 6 in federal court to 37 months in prison for stealing Social Security benefit checks intended for his deceased mother.

United States District Court Judge Donovan Frank also sentenced James Chester Stites to three years of supervised released and ordered Stites to pay the government restitution.

Stites had pleaded guilty to theft of government funds. Specifically, during a 10-year period, from December 1995 through June 2006, Stites diverted \$119,887 in Social Security checks intended for his deceased mother.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Social Security Administration-Office of Inspector General. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Dixon.